

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 145774

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT MOGADISCIO 1274 ACTION SECSTATE 7 JUN 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1274

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SO, US
SUBJECT: SIAD HOLDS DOOR OPEN FOR MILITARY TEAM; SEEKS BROADER
SCOPE

REF: MOGADISCIO 1264

1. PRESIDENT SIAD RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR FOR A PRE-HOME LEAVE
COURTESY CALL LAST NIGHT, JUNE. DURING THE HOUR AND A HALF
MIDNIGHT DISCUSSION THE SOMALI LEADER PROFESSED TO BE
DISCOURAGED AND CONFUSED BY THE SLOW PROGRESS IN IMPORVING THE
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HE HARKENED REPEATEDLY TO CRITICISMS
BY THE US OFFICIALS OF SOMALIA'S ROLE IN THE OGADEN. HE ALSO
DECRIED SOVIET PROPAGANDA AND MISINFORMATION WHICH HE SAID
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PROMPTED INACTION AND A PARALYZING OF WESTERN WILL.

2. ON THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM ITSELF, SAID SAID HE STILL
HOPED THE TEAM WOULD COME WITH "AN OPEN MIND". HE ADDED THAT
THEY SHOULD BE WELL BRIEFED ON THE REALITY OF THE SOVIET
POSITION IN THE HORN AND ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA. REFERRING
TO AN EARLIER MEETING THAT SAME EVENING WITH HIS MILITARY

ADVISORS, SIAD CONTENDED THEY VOICED SOME SKEPTICISM THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO ORCHESTRATE AN ADEQUATE DEFENSIVE POSTURE TO RESIST AN EVENTUAL SOVIET REVENGE MOVE AGAINST SOMALIA.

3. SIAD ALSO MENTIONED THAT HIS PROBLEMS WITH THE GSDR BUREAUCRACY WERE STILL CURRENT. HE SAID HE HAD DISCOVERED MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INCLINED TO ACCEPT SOVIET OVERTURES AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION BEFORE MOSCOW ACTED TO PUNISH SOMALIA FOR ITS ACTION IN NOVEMBER 1977 WHEN THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY WAS ABROGATED.

4. THE SOMALI LEADER REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON HIS PLANS FOR MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN LEADERS LATER THIS MONTH. HE WAS LIKEWISE RETICENT REGARDING HIS HOPES TO VISIT WASHINGTON, NOR WOULD HE COMMENT IN ANY WAY ON THE SEVERAL REPORTS OF IMPENDING CABINET AND SOMALI AMBASSADORIAL CHANGES WHICH ARE NOT MAKING THE ROUNDS IN MOGADISCIO. SIAD WAS ALSO RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF RELIEF, INVESTMENT, OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE DID, HOWEVER, EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GENERAL MOVEMENT IN THE US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND THE SIGNS WHICH HE INTERPRETED AS OUR INTENT TO MOVE PROMPTLY IN THIS AREA.

5. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR FOUND SIAD ALERT AND CORDIAL,
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BUT DISTURBED BY THE SUCCESSES OF RECENT SOVIET PROPAGANDA. MANY OF THE ARGUMENTS REGARDING THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US WERE REPETITIONS OF POINTS SAID HAS MADE TO PAST INTERLOCUTORS, BUT THE AMBASSADOR FOUND SIAD STILL ACTIVELY SEEKING A LEAD FROM THE USG. THE AMBASSADOR FURTHER THOUGHT SIAD WOULD ACCEPT THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM IF THE US WERE ABLE TO MAKE SOME CONCILIATORY MOVE TOWARD A BROADER FRAME OF REFERENCE.
VOUGHT

UNQUOTE VANCE

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